

still asymptomatic and would otherwise unknowingly be spreading them to others.

The technology is inexpensive and is similar to that used in pregnancy tests. In fact, these tests can be produced in bulk for a dollar or two per test. But we need investment from the Federal Government in doing head-to-head comparisons to determine which tests are the best, and then production and procurement of those best tests on a massive scale.

This is a new virus. Variants have already emerged that make it more contagious. More are sure to come. It will be close to a year before all of our children are vaccinated. Now, frequent rapid testing is a way to identify infected children and staff before they get symptoms and keep them at home so they can't infect others. It can give staff and families confidence that our schools are safe. It can also give an early warning of outbreaks. Now, imagine what this sort of testing could mean for workplaces, for restaurants, and for theaters.

The American Rescue Plan does more than strengthen our vaccines and testing though. It provides critical relief that families need right now.

We are in one of the worst economic downturns this country has ever seen, and the American Rescue Plan provides help where it is most needed, prioritizing children and families.

This plan shores up the child tax credit and provides it up front as a monthly check for up to \$300 per child. This is a very big deal. More than 93 percent of children and families will benefit, including the poorest 10 percent, who currently get no benefits because their parents' income is too low to qualify. These are the families who need the help the most. This provision alone will cut the number of children living in poverty in half.

It also shores up SNAP benefits and incorporates my bill to expand WIC, so that children can get good nutrition and enough of it to power their brains and their bodies. It provides cash benefits and enhanced unemployment benefits that will help the hardest-hit families the most, and it gets even more help to families with children.

It expands Medicaid in States that haven't already and makes it easier for people to afford and sign up for health insurance.

And finally, it provides resources to schools so that educators, staff, children, and their families feel confident that they are returning to classrooms safely. And it expands broadband access at home to narrow the digital divide.

The American Rescue Plan is a win for the country. It meets the moment, and it focuses relief on the people and businesses hardest hit by the economic and social fallout from this pandemic. Important to this pediatrician, it helps families and children with bold policy changes we have always needed but that have become even more urgent during this crisis.

UNIONS WILL HELP REBUILD THE MIDDLE CLASS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, later today we will debate the PRO Act, and we will pass the PRO Act to free up American workers to form unions and bargain collectively just because they darn well please without interference from their employer. And when we debate the PRO Act, Madam Speaker, we will get into all the details of the provisions of the PRO Act, which are really incredible, and I am very excited about that.

But right now, I want to talk about what a difference the PRO Act would make, why it would be a game changer for the working people of this country.

First of all, let's talk about productivity. American workers are incredibly productive. In the whole period during and after World War II when Americans were forming unions, thanks to the National Labor Relations Act, and up to a third of private-sector workers were in unions, wages and productivity rose in lockstep. You can't even separate them.

But then in the late seventies when we started deregulating airlines and deregulating trucking, and when Ronald Reagan became President and busted the air traffic controllers union, PATCO, and the union-busting business came up, and union membership started declining, productivity kept zooming up, but workers' compensation was totally flat. Since 1979, productivity has increased 70 percent, but compensation only 12 percent.

What about income inequality? We can go to the next one. For the last 100 years, income inequality has tracked union membership almost exactly. So if you take the share of income taken by the top 10 percent of the workforce, you can see that as union membership grew, income inequality fell.

Look at the difference the National Labor Relations Act itself made. In 1935, union membership shot up. The wages of the top 10 percent shot down as a share of everybody. We got more equal. We achieved the American Dream. And now with 1,000 cuts to union membership, when we are down to 6 percent of private-sector workers being in unions, there has been this incredible divergence, and the wealthy have taken all of the gains, and workers aren't in unions anymore.

And let's look at some specific stuff as we get the next slide up here. Let's start with benefits. Union members have more benefits and better benefits almost across the board. Here are just a couple of examples: 86 percent of union members have access to paid sick leave, as opposed to 72 percent of nonunion workers; and 94 percent of union members have access to healthcare benefits, compared to just two-thirds of nonunion workers.

And it is not on this slide, but more than half of union members have ac-

cess to defined benefit pensions, real pensions, and only a small fraction of nonunion workers do.

Finally, let's look at wages in the next one. For all workers across the private sector, union members make about \$1,150 a week more.

We are here debating, and finally we are passing, \$1,400 for poor families one time. Union members earn \$1,150 more every week through their own labor because they negotiated for it. That is \$7,800 a year more.

And finally, if we look at the next slide—and Rick is doing an awesome job here; I appreciate you—it is especially important for women and workers of color. Look at this: This shows that across all categories of American workers, White, Black, and Latinx men and women workers make more. Women make \$11,752 a year more if they are union members than if they are not. African-American workers make \$10,088 a year more if they are union members. And Latinx workers make almost \$14,000 a year more, \$13,936.

Madam Speaker, any way you slice it, when we give workers the power to form unions at their workplace, they lift themselves up, they lift up their families, they lift up all the nonunion workers around them because the non-union employers have to raise wages to keep up with the unionized workers, and they lift up our country.

Let's pass the PRO Act and rebuild the middle class of this country.

GUN CONTROL BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. GREENE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition of gun control bills.

I rise today in support of our Second Amendment, the greatest freedom that we have as Americans, and a right that people all over the world wish that they had.

The Second Amendment reads: "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446, both gun control bills, infringe on the people's right to keep and bear arms. We must stand up and stop the constant flow of gun control bills that constantly come out of this House. The American people have these freedoms for a very good purpose.

You see, the right to defend oneself is something that should never require us to be on a list. It should never require us to pay a tax. It should never require us to wait to be able to purchase a firearm to defend ourselves. It should never require rules or shame or condemnation from another American.

Right now, we are in a time where people are being shamed just for being a gun owner. Our government is constantly pursuing legal gun owners and making them out to be the bad guy.

Take, for example, in Atlanta, Georgia, my home State, just this past weekend at the NBA All-Star game, there were 13 shootings. These were all illegal shootings. None of those criminals signed up for a background check for their guns. None of those criminals considered that they needed a waiting period before they used their firearm. And none of those criminals cared about any of the laws on the books when they shot people.

Criminals don't care about gun laws. Criminals just don't care. They're going to commit their crime. They are going to murder someone, whether they have a legal gun, an illegal gun, a knife, a hammer, you name it. They are criminals. They break the law.

H.R. 8 requires a background check on gun owners. Everyone knows that for a background check, you have to submit all your information to get that background check done. It is actually nothing but a national gun registry list. And everyone knows that a registry list leads to gun confiscation later on. This is what gun owners know. This is what gun owners fear of a government that may become too tyrannical, which I would like to remind you is the whole reason why we have the Second Amendment in the first place. It is because our brave men and women who founded our country fought against a tyrannical government that was coming to take away their guns.

This is not what we want in America. We never want a war on our land, but we also don't want a government that becomes too controlling and overbearing and takes away the rights of gun owners.

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You see, gun rights are American rights, and gun rights are women's rights. Yesterday was International Women's Day. It is a wonderful thing to be an American woman. We are the freest women in the world. For us to be able to have the right to own a firearm and protect ourselves when someone is trying to hurt us is a great right.

Madam Speaker, there is a woman named Carol Bowne, who was stabbed to death outside of her New Jersey home by her ex-boyfriend. Carol knew her best chance of defending herself from a violent ex-boyfriend was a gun, not a piece of paper, not a 911 call. She knew her ex-boyfriend was violent and wanted to kill her, so she went to buy a gun.

But you know what? It was a background check, the rules of the State, the oppressive gun rules of that State, that led to her being stabbed to death because it delayed her ability to buy a gun and defend herself from an ex-boyfriend that was out of his mind.

Carol Bowne had a restraining order. She was following the law against her boyfriend, so she had a restraining order. She had reported him to the police, but he still came to her house and killed her in the driveway. She was

waiting for her approval of her gun permit—literally, what we are talking about with H.R. 8, background checks, and H.R. 1446, a 20-day waiting period.

She was following the law, and she still got stabbed to death and murdered by her ex-boyfriend. You see, she had gone to the township police department 2 days before her death to check on the status of her languishing application.

Another indication of her fear of her out-of-his-mind ex-boyfriend, she had installed surveillance cameras around her home. Guess what? Those cameras recorded—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

HONORING RAMON ANIBAL RAMOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and work of a great New Yorker, a great Dominican-American, Ramon Anibal Ramos, who was born in San Pedro de Macoris in Ingenio Angelina.

Over 50 years in radio and TV, that is what he gave our community. He conducted Fiesta de Tele Antillas on channel 47. He would listen to rock and roll as a young man, at an early age.

He began La Voz del Tropico in 1958. He worked at Radio Radio, Onda Musical, Radio Reloj. In 1973, he went to work for Radio Clarin, "Entre Carrera y Carrera," then Colorvision at a program called "La Alegria del Pais y Fiebre del Sabado," and also Super KQ FM98.

He was an advocate for the community, and he worked right in the middle of the pandemic with SOMOS, a group of community-based physicians in the community of northern Manhattan.

Madam Speaker, as the newspaper reported flocks of vultures flying over Manhattan in those tough months of February, March, April, during the pandemic, Ramon Anibal Ramos was out there documenting everything that was going on in the city of New York and reporting on what community doctors at SOMOS were doing on behalf of my constituents. He was an advocate for the community. He worked with those doctors.

I want to extend my condolences to his wife and family, and to say that Ramon Anibal Ramos and his show, "El Show de Ramon Anibal Ramos," was truly "lo mejor del cable."

Madam Speaker, I bring his name up because we are about to pass a \$1.9 trillion rescue package, and I am amazed. I am taken aback. I am surprised how many in this Chamber and in the Senate don't see the importance of this rescue package.

Madam Speaker, as I said earlier, a flock of vultures flew over New York City. Imagine that, the number of dead people, families mourning, people fighting for their lives on ventilators

in hospitals across the city, families quarantined, businesses shut down. Some of them will not be able to open again. Some of them are struggling to open right this very moment.

Imagine the heroes, nurses and doctors and police officers and firefighters, community-based physicians, who were out there supporting our community, putting their lives on the line—including Ramon Anibal Ramos, who put his life on the line to help New Yorkers.

Yet, many in this Chamber across the aisle and in the Senate don't see the importance of passing this \$1.9 trillion package, which provides \$75 billion for increased vaccination. As we see a new variant—by the way, it has been determined by researchers that only one out of the four antibodies available work against this new variant.

In fact, we are not over this pandemic, and we must bring additional dollars for vaccination. We must bring additional help for small businesses: the EIDL Forgiveness Act, additional PPP money, \$25 billion for restaurants that have been hurt; \$1,400 for families, for individuals, including those children and young people who are in school and college, and dependent parents who may be living with us.

Madam Speaker, the other side of the aisle and some of our Senators fought against the \$400 unemployment benefits. They fought over a mere \$100. What is \$100 in today's cost of living? What can you buy with \$100? Yet, they scabbled and fought over \$100 of unemployment benefits. Incredible.

Madam Speaker, this is an important package that will not only save America; it will put us on the right track to recuperate from this horrendous pandemic, which may be the crisis of our generation. We are here to support that package, to open up the schools safer. Let's bring health to the American family.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF WILLIAM QUARLES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I stand here to honor the life and memory of William Edward Quarles, Jr.

Mr. Quarles was a pillar of the Goochland County, Virginia, community, and he constantly worked to make Goochland stronger. He encouraged his neighbors to get involved in local decisionmaking, and he cared about improving public safety and protecting the families that called Goochland home.

William was a dedicated leader with a heart for public service. He served on the Goochland County Board of Supervisors for 8 years, serving as chairman three times. He served for 6 years on the Goochland Planning Commission, including two times as chairman. He also served on the State EMS Advisory Board and as a representative for the